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Friday, March 30, 2012

THE MORNING NEWS

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Thirteen dead in new Honduras prison fire

HONDURAS (AFP) -- At least 13 people were killed Thursday in a Honduras prison fire, officials said, less than two months after a deadly prison blaze killed more than 350.

"There are 13 bodies. We have not yet been able to identify the circumstances of the incident" at the San Pedro Sula prison in the north of the country, said Marleny Vane-gas of the city prosecutor's office.

"We will have to await the results of the investigation."

According to initial reports by the authorities, the detainees themselves put out the fire with buckets of water.

Earlier, police spokesman Walter Amaya had put the death toll at one. Officials said the fire was rapidly brought under control.

"We have regained control of the prison," Amaya said.

Amaya said rival groups of detainees seemed to have caused the fire, but cautioned he was awaiting the results of the investigation for further details.

Security Minister Pompeyo Bonilla said the fire at

the facility -- which was built for 800 inmates but currently has 2,250 -- had "once again highlighted the critical situation" in the country's prisons.

A horrific fire erupted on February 14 at a prison in Comayagua, some 90 kilometers (55 miles) north of the capital Tegucigalpa.

The incident, in which 361 people were killed, was one of the world's deadliest prison blazes, and highlighted the problem of overcrowding in Latin American jails.

Agents from the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) concluded that the fire was accidental, but US Ambassador to Honduras Lisa Kubiske also said official "negligence" and "legal violations" were to blame, due to overcrowding at the facility.

In May 2004, another fire at the San Pedro Sula prison left 107 people dead.

The country's prison system is considered a looming disaster by observers, with some 13,000 people held in facilities designed to keep only 8,000 people.

Get ready for Fiesta Rotaria this Sunday, April 1



One of the most anticipated annual events is coming up this Sunday, April 1, the 32nd installment of the fundraising Fiesta Rotaria, conducted by the Aruba chapter of Rotary Club International. The all day affair beginning at 10:00 AM will take place on the grounds and the streets around the Cas di Cultura, and the courtyard of the J F Kennedy school, as it did last year.

Fiesta Committee President Lufrido Croes explained there will be the many favorite activities that make the event so popular. The bargain basement flea market will be broken up into many sec-

tions; the traditional supermarket, clothing and accessories, electronics, stationary and toys, plants and furniture.

Continued on pg 3



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Getting to know you at the Aruba meets Europe Marketplace



Visiting executives from all of Aruba's major European travel partners were

exploring the possibilities of what they can offer their clients during their Aruban

sojourns at the annual Aruba Meets Europe Conference Marketplace yesterday morning, in the ballroom of the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa.

This is an important part of the event, when tour operators and wholesalers can the hard information they need and discuss important business with resorts, tours, water sports operators and any number of other services offered on the island, such as spas.

This year, the featured special event was the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival over Columbus Day

Weekend, which will feature Chaka Khan as the headliner.

Rosalie Klein



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Get ready for Fiesta Rotaria this Sunday, April 1...Continued from pg 1

Several dance and singing groups will be performing throughout the day; and the ever-popular wheel of fortune, dunk tank and kid's corner, with games and dino jumps, will keep everyone attending entertained. The day will end with performances by popular local bands Le Groove, Dushie Band and Tsunami.

Inexpensive lunches, snacks and barbecue will be on sale, to provide a full day of fun and for all the family. This is Rotary Club's #1 fundraising effort during the year, and 100% of the proceeds will go to a number of foundations they support. Principally: Club Kibrahacha, 60+ social and learn-

ing center for retirees, which was founded by the Rotary, the YMCA and the Aruba Foundation for Autism., to name a few.

Again this year, a major portion of the funds will be raised with the sale of tickets for the Rotary Club annual Raffle offering a grand prize of a 2011 Chevrolet Silverado as first prize,

2nd: Cruise for 2 from Maduro Travel

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4th: 2 Tickets Aruba-Amsterdam-Aruba with KLM

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10th: 1,000 gift certificate from Ling & Sons Market

The raffle drawing will take place promptly at 5:00 PM; Fiesta Rotaria will end at 6:00 PM.

Rotary Club President Dr. de Windt stated this year's fundraiser is expected to be bigger and better than ever and hopes everyone will come and join the club by supporting these worthy foundations performing valuable services to the community.

By Rosalie Klein

Chavez back in Venezuela after Cuba treatment

CARACAS (AFP) - President Hugo Chavez returned to Venezuela yesterday after spending five days in Cuba for follow-up cancer treatment in Cuba.

"I feel fine and will continue doing so, thank God."

As he returned, the National Electoral Commission announced the date for the presidential election -- in which Chavez is facing a strong challenge to his bid to secure a third term -- would be October 7.

Chavez, 57, went to Havana late last week for follow-up radiation treatment, after his surgery there last month to remove a malignant tumor.

His stay in Havana lasted exactly five days, allowing

him to head off criticism that he had left Venezuela without permission from the National Assembly, which must authorize a president's absence if it exceeds that length of time.

The cancer comes at an awkward time for Chavez, who is in the thick of what is expected to be a tough reelection campaign. He has ruled out the possibility of a replacement candidate.

Chavez faces a stiff challenge from 39-year-old state governor Henrique Capriles, who was chosen to represent a unified opposition in primaries earlier this year.

Some 18 million Venezuelans will be eligible to vote in the October ballots.

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MARRIOTT CARE FOUNDATION DID IT AGAIN 2012 Extreme makeover project O.C. Cas pa Hubentud



Associates painting the bedrooms

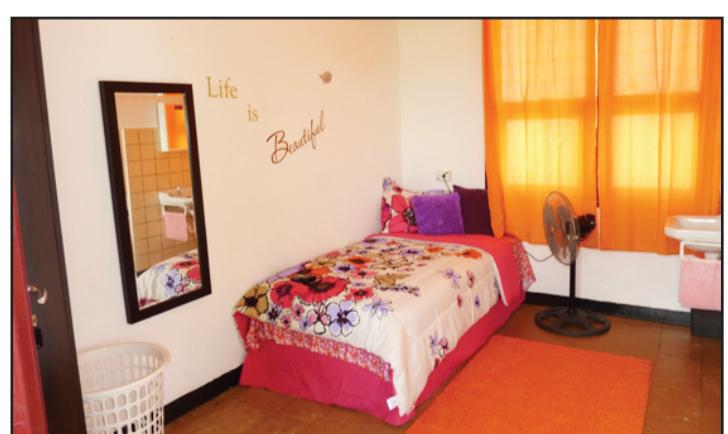
Recently, Marriott Care Foundation took up its largest charity project for 2012, Extreme MakeOver of O.C. Cas pa Hubentud in Noord.

An extreme home make over of seventeen bedrooms for teenage girls age 12 -18



The recreation room is ready to use

was completed last Saturday. Over fifty Marriott Care members gathered at the youth home to clean, paint and decorate all rooms. Each individual bedroom received new bedding, closets, curtains, mirrors, rugs and pillows. In addition the Marriott Care foundation took the initiative to transform the two



Viola a brand new room with new bedding and interior

stand the importance to provide a safe and pleasant environment for these teenagers to live in."

The Marriott Care Foundation thanks all vendors who contributed in a way to this special project : Dura Home center, Kooyman, Crown, Cheng's Supermarket, Asian Stores, De Palm Tours, Mario's Sports Store, Sam's, Caribbean Overseas, Top 1 Toys and the Stellaris Casino.

A special thank you goes out to all volunteers, who embodied the Marriott "Spirit to Serve our communities" philosophy. In April the Marriott Care Foundation has scheduled the home makeover of the boys bedrooms in Tarabana Dakota.

Continue on pg 5

Giving better service to clients Receive information of monthly bill from ELMAR via SMS now!



ELMAR is now offering a new service to clients giving the opportunity to obtain information regarding their electricity bill via SMS. "This new system is innovative and super beneficial for our clients," ELMAR informed.

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MARRIOTT CARE FOUNDATION DID IT AGAIN



Continued from pg 4 About:

The O.C. Cas pa Hubentud provides housing to teenagers age 12–18 that are not able to live in their own environment and to develop themselves physically and mentally as optimal as possible.

The Aruba Marriott Care Foundation was founded in 1999 by the associates of the Aruba Marriott and has been actively contributing to the Aruba community for the past thirteen years. It embodies a living and breathing sentiment and "Spirit to Serve" within the associates who fund the Foundation through direct financial contributions. Currently over 540 associates contribute monthly to the Care Foundation.

and our time is limited, our cellular phone has become indispensable to most of us, so this way our clients can receive their monthly bill on their mobile phones via SMS and at an earlier date, making it easier for them to plan. The principal function of the cellular phone as a medium of communication has made it easier for many companies to offer a better service, saving precious time for clients.

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InselAir welcomed as Active Member within the International Air Transport Association (IATA)



is the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA), which InselAir obtained in 2011.

InselAir now joins IATA as an active member together with 240 established airlines from 115 countries around the world. "This membership makes it possible for us to protect passengers rights, guard and protect the aviation industry in this region, and contribute to the growth within this industry and all businesses related to it," according to Albert Kluyver, CEO InselAir.

The airline already joined the Latin American and Caribbean Air Transport Association (ALTA) in 2011, which represents over 90 percent of the region's commercial air traffic. Kluyver, as CEO of InselAir, was recently voted by ALTA members as board member of ALTA. "Together with other high profile airlines such as Avianca, Taca, TAM, COPA, LAN and AeroMexico we are part of the ALTA board and work together on passenger protection and sustainable air

traffic throughout the region."

Kluyver concluded, "With 16 Pan-American destinations and still growing it is very important that we can offer our passengers safe travels as well as their protection, now and in the future. We started InselAir nearly six years ago in order to provide better connectivity between the islands for reasonable prices, we've grown to be one of the best connecting airlines within this region, providing flexible connectivity to North- and South America and the Caribbean region. Also our strategic partnerships with airlines such as US Airways, Air France, KLM, SLM, Avianca, Blue Panorama and others create even further this connectivity, connecting our passengers throughout the world."

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

White House says no decision on oil reserves

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House said Thursday no decision had been made on tapping the US strategic oil reserve, dampening speculation that major consuming nations could use the supply to curb a surge in petroleum prices.

"I cannot confirm that," White House spokesman Jay Carney said when asked about French statements about a move to tap the reserves.

"I will say, as I have said repeatedly, that this option is on the table, but no decisions have been made and no specific actions have been proposed. We obviously consult... with our partners around the

world and energy producing states, but again, there are no decisions that have been made."

Oil prices have fallen in recent days on speculation that major consumer nations such as the United States, Britain and France could tap into their strategic reserves to increase supply.

Such a move, which last took place during the uprising in 2011 in Libya, is usually co-ordinated by the 28-member International Energy Agency which acts on behalf of oil consuming nations.

France's Energy Minister

Eric Besson said on Wednesday that his country was ready to tap into its strategic oil reserves in order to help bring down global crude prices.

"It was the United States that requested this, and France greeted the idea favorably," he told reporters at the Elysee Palace.

French Finance Minister Francois Baroin said Thursday it was reasonable to expect a move by the IEA, which said it was concerned about oil prices hitting very high levels and is prepared to take action, if warranted, given a fragile economic outlook.

New torture case rocks Russian police

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian investigators on Thursday charged four policemen with asphyxiating a witness using a gas mask as the force reels from a series of torture allegations.

The four officers in the southern Siberian city of Novokuznetsk are accused of deliberately causing severe bodily harm and causing the death of a 31-year-old man, the Investigative Committee said in a statement.

"The policemen checking the man's involvement in a crime, put a gas mask on him and beat him up to try to get evidence. He died from his injuries," the investigators said.

They added that police attempted to cover up the death in September last year as suicide, but pathologists who examined the body found the man had died from asphyxiation.

In a separate case on Thursday three policemen were arrested and charged with

brutally beating a 20-year-old woman over several hours in the city of Orenburg in the Urals mountains.

Reports of brutal treatment of suspects in police stations have multiplied after a scandal in the central Russian city of Kazan, where a man died in custody this month after being beaten and raped with a champagne bottle.

While officials dismissed the torture as an isolated incident, rights activists and victims have spoken out, painting a bleak picture of systematic police violence that goes largely unpunished.

On Thursday, investigators accused one of the officers at the centre of the Kazan scandal of beating and attempting to rape another suspect with a pencil in February last year.

He was also accused of slapping another man in the face in an attempt to make him confess to stealing a cell phone.

In the republic of Bashkor-

tostan, an investigation was opened after a 16-year-old and his 22-year-old friend claimed they were beaten by police in March.

In the same region, the Committee Against Torture group said it received testimonies from two individuals who claimed to have been tortured in December and February respectively.

They were beaten, asphyxiated and one of them, who had to be hospitalised for 32 days, said he was sodomised with an iron rod. Their tormentors reportedly went by nicknames such as 'Gestapo' and 'SS'.

Russia's interior minister Rashid Nurgaliyev has held public meetings to address violence in the police, but has denied the problem is systemic.

Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev last year backed reforms that included renaming the police service and forcing officers to reapply for their jobs.

New York law stubs out synthetic marijuana

NEW YORK (AFP) - Synthetic marijuana, which is sold openly in shops and gives smokers a high, was banned Thursday across New York after being linked to serious health risks.

It will be no more "Mr Nice Guy," or "Smiley Dog," "Spice," "Galaxy Gold" or any other brands of the fake pot, which until now had been sold across the counter in convenience stores and tobacco shops.

The ban was issued by New York State Health Commissioner Nirav Shah and his New York City equivalent with immediate effect.

Synthetic marijuana is a plant material coated with chemicals imitating THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

The state order said the product had been linked to "severe adverse reactions, including death and acute renal failure," and commonly caused increased heart rates, paranoia, nausea, confusion, seizures and loss of consciousness.

"The commissioner's order calls for sales and distribution of these products to cease immediately," Shah's office said in a statement.

"The drugs that are sold as 'synthetic marijuana' are new and poorly understood, but reports from poison control centers show that they are toxic and can be very dangerous," New York City health chief

Thomas Farley said.

"Because they are sold in stores, people may believe they are safe, and use of these drugs is increasing rapidly in New York City. With this order we are getting them off store shelves and telling everyone in New York City to never use them."

The city health department said it expects it will mail the order to about 10,000 retailers. It called on New Yorkers to report non-compliance.

"Synthetic cannabinoids are not marijuana," Robert Hoffman, head of the New York City Poison Control Center, said.

"They are unique drugs made in a lab that have one effect in common with marijuana but potentially many other different effects. They are sold as herbal products, giving users a perception of safety, but in fact they are toxic drugs sprayed on plant leaves."

The synthetic drug remains legal in some states. However, the Drug Enforcement Administration in February extended a year-old order banning some of the chemicals used to make the so-called "fake pot."

The chemicals were placed in the most restrictive category as "substances with a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States and a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug under medical supervision," the DEA said.



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International News

Spaniards strike, march over work reforms, cuts

MADRID — Spaniards staged a general strike and took to the streets Thursday in anger at labour reforms, spending cuts and soaring unemployment, prompting scuffles with police.

Police charged and arrested hooded rioters and bins were set on fire in Barcelona while there were some face-offs in Madrid, although most demonstrations passed off peacefully.

Thousands of workers under union banners picketed businesses and transport hubs, while other groups staged bicycle rallies, slowing traffic, as police deployed in large numbers.

"No turning back... General strike!" protesters yelled, wearing stickers that read: "No to the labour reform of cheap lay-offs."

It was the first national strike to challenge Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, who was sworn in 100 days ago vowing to cut Spain's 23-percent unemployment rate and fix its faltering finances.

Ministers on Friday adopt a 2012 budget set to axe tens of billions of euros in spending, adding to cuts that have already squeezed public services.

Rajoy has warned the budget will be "very austere".

Candido Mendez, leader of the UGT union, told reporters Friday's budget would be "unfair, useless in the fight against the economic crisis, and could become a battering ram to increase the destruction of employment".

Spain's major CCOO and UGT unions called the strike over the right-leaning government's February 11 labour reform which makes it cheaper to lay off staff and easier to cut salaries.

They planned protests in 100 towns and cities.

Minimum service agreements kept schools and hospitals open, ensuring 30 percent of trains and buses ran, and allowed some planes to fly despite Iberia, Air Nostrum and Vueling cancelling two-thirds of flights.

Unions claimed a big turnout especially in factories, but interior ministry policy chief Cristina Diaz said fewer people took part than in the last general strike in September 2010.

Two leading business associations, CEOE and CPYME, said in a statement that most companies were operating normally.

Police arrested 58 people in the early morning at a blockade at a bus station in Madrid, while six police and three strikers were lightly injured in minor incidents, the interior ministry said.

In Barcelona police said 30 people were arrested.

At a union rally in central Madrid, 56-year-old civil service worker Angel Escobar said the labour reform removed basic workers' rights.

Many commuters still crowded train stations and bus stops, saying they could not afford to lose a day's pay.

The strike came at a bad time for Rajoy, who is trying to show Europe that Spain will fulfill its promises to cut spending and trim the public deficit to 5.3 percent of economic output this year from 8.51 percent last year.

The government has already announced budget cuts and tax hikes totalling 15 billion euros but analysts say Spain needs to shave a total 50 billion euros from the budget.

CCOO general secretary Ignacio Fernandez Toxo warned of a new show of force on May 1.



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Four Muslim preachers banned from entering France

PARIS (AFP) - France said Thursday it had banned four Muslim preachers from entering France to attend an Islamic conference, saying their "calls for hatred and violence" were a threat to public order.

Saudi clerics Ayed Bin Abdallah al-Qarni and Abdallah Basfar, Egyptian cleric Safwat al-Hijazi and a former mufti of Jerusalem Akrama Sabri are banned from entering France, a statement said.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Interior Minister Claude Gueant voiced "regret" that prominent Swiss intellectual Tariq Ramadan has been invited to the April 6-9 meeting organised by the Union of Islamic Organisations in France (UOIF).

They said his "positions and statements are against the republican spirit, which does not do any service to France's Muslims".

France cannot prevent Ra-

madan from entering as Switzerland is a member of Europe's visa-free Schengen zone.

Influential Qatari preacher Yusuf al-Qaradawi and Mahmud al-Masri of Egypt have decided not to come for the conference, the statement said.

Ramadan is considered one of Europe's leading Muslim thinkers and was an advisor to former British prime minister Tony Blair.

He is known for promoting a modernised form of Islam and for his opposition to the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq. He has been barred from entering US territory since 2004.

Sarkozy said on Monday that Qaradawi, 86, an influential Qatari-based Sunni Muslim cleric, was not welcome in France.

Qaradawi, who hosts a popular show on Al-Jazeera satellite television, backed the Arab Spring uprisings in Tunisia,

Egypt and Libya, and has launched a fund-raising effort for the Syrian opposition.

That ban, which has now turned into a withdrawal, was criticised by the International Union of Muslim Scholars which Qaradawi heads.

The cleric is accused of having made anti-Semitic and homophobic statements and was banned from entering Britain in 2008. He has been banned from entering the United States since 1999.

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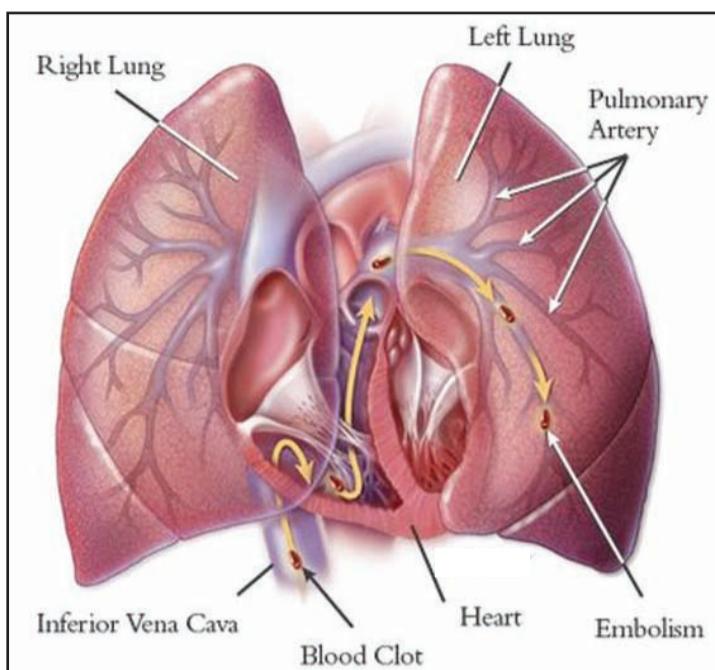
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Health & Living

Pill works as well against lung clots as injection: study



BERLIN (AFP) - A new kind of blood thinner that comes in a pill form and is made by German drug giant Bayer works as well as injection therapy to ward off blood.

Xarelto, or rivaroxaban, was tested in an international phase III clinical trial as a treatment to treat or prevent a recurrence of venous thromboembolism, the third most common kind of cardiovascular disease, which can strike the legs or the lungs.

Pulmonary embolism, or clots in the lungs, are third leading cause of death in US hospitals.

The trial of nearly 5,000 people in 38 countries found that the pill was easier to administer than the two-shot regimen of the anti-coagulant enoxaparin, followed by a vi-

amin K antagonist, which is the standard therapy.

It also appeared to be safer in terms of preventing major bleeding, said lead study investigator Harry Buller, professor of vascular medicine at the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam.

"Rivaroxaban is just as good as standard treatment for PE (pulmonary embolism) -- these data are pretty convincing -- and this is an oral-only approach, which makes it very simple," he said in a statement.

All subjects in the study were diagnosed with pulmonary embolism, and a quarter also had leg clots.

Those in the pill group took the medicine by mouth twice a day for three weeks,

then once a day for the rest of the study which lasted between three and 12 months as judged appropriate for various patients.

The other half, who were assigned to get the injections, had two shots daily of enoxaparin for five days, followed by vitamin K shots.

The findings could give doctors an easier way to treat patients and reduce office visits, even though the standard injection therapy is considered effective and works against thrombosis almost 90 percent of the time.

"The reason people look for alternatives is that it's a nightmare to give. Rivaroxaban makes things easier for everybody -- patients and physicians," said Buller.

"Physicians want to know about major bleeding, the most important safety outcome, and rivaroxaban was highly significantly superior. This was our most astonishing finding."

Rivaroxaban has been approved by US regulators for preventing clots in patients who have knee or hip replacement surgery.

The latest data from the trial, known as EINSTEIN-PE and sponsored by drugmakers Bayer and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, was presented at the American College of Cardiology conference in Chicago.

More details also appear in the New England Journal of Medicine online.

Self-checking won't spot testicle cancer: doctor

PARIS (AFP) - Celebrity appeals for British men to check their testicles to detect early signs of cancer are a waste of time and possibly harmful, an opinion piece published by the British Medical Journal (BMJ) says.

Singer Robbie Williams and the Leicester Tigers rugby team are among those who have lent their names to a campaign for men to be "testicle aware," just as women are encouraged to look for dangerous lumps in their breasts.

But in a personal view published in Thursday's BMJ, Doctor Keith Hopcroft, a general practitioner in the southeastern county of Essex,

lashes the invitation for a man to "grop his gonads or caress his crown jewels" as "well-meaning whimsy, with the potential to do harm."

"There is no good evidence that routine testicular self-examination is of any benefit," he writes.

"The chances of discovering something significant from routine self-examination of the testicles are minuscule. At least 50,000 men would need to examine themselves for 10 years to prevent one death."

Hopcroft says the "testicle aware" campaign is based on the notion that this form of cancer is a silent killer, with no symptoms of pain.

The campaigners argue men should look for painless swelling that, they say, is a possible sign of cancer.

But, argues Hopcroft, at least half of patients with testicular cancer usually experience pain.

The real question is teaching men to be aware of this symptom and act on it swiftly, rather than "turning the nation's blokes into ball-watching neurotics," he says.

Self-examination may turn up benign swellings such as epididymal cysts that are harmless but may cause the man crippling anxiety, he adds.

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Autism cases rise in US: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The number of children diagnosed with autism in the United States has risen 23 percent since 2009, with one in 88 children affected according to official health data released on Thursday.

Previous figures had shown the disorder was found in as many as one in 110 US children.

The rise may be due in part to improved identification of autism cases, particularly among children under three, but the extent of that influence on the overall number of cases is unknown, experts said.

The latest report found that autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is nearly five times more common in boys than girls, with one in 54 boys identified as having some form of the disorder.

The disorder was previously believed to be more common in boys than girls by a factor of four to one.

"Study results from the 2008 surveillance year show 11.3 per 1,000 eight-year-old children have been identified as having an ASD," said the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

Autism includes a wide spectrum of developmental

differences and may range from mild social awkwardness to complete inability to communicate, repetitive movements, sensitivity to certain lights and sounds, and behavioral problems. Its cause remains a mystery.

The data issued Thursday was based on autism prevalence estimates from 14 different areas in the United States.

Rates of autism spectrum disorder varied widely -- from 1 in 210 children in the southeastern state of Alabama to 1 in 47 children in the western state of Utah.

The biggest increases were noted among Hispanic and African-American children.

Early diagnoses were also on the rise for children under three, but a significant 40 percent of children in the study were not diagnosed until after their fourth birthday.

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Sci-Tech

China tells Apple to 'care for workers'



A photo released by Apple shows its chief executive, Timothy D. Cook, visiting the iPhone production line at the Foxconn Technology Group facility in Zhengzhou, China, on Wednesday.

HONG KONG (AFP) - The man tipped to be China's next leader has told Apple that foreign firms should protect workers, state media said Thursday, as the US giant fends off criticism over factory conditions in China.

International labour watchdog groups have said workers in Chinese plants run by major Apple supplier Foxconn of Taiwan are poorly treated, and have blamed a string of apparent suicides on the conditions.

Vice Premier Li Keqiang, who is likely to be China's next premier, met Tim Cook while the new Apple chief executive was visiting Beijing

on Tuesday, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Li told Cook multinational companies should "pay more attention to caring for workers", the report said.

Cook on Wednesday visited a Foxconn plant employing 120,000 people in China's central city of Zhengzhou, where he viewed the production line, Apple said.

California-based Apple is wildly popular in China, where its products such as the iPhone and iPad are coveted by wealthy consumers.

Greater China -- which includes Hong Kong and Taiwan -- has become Apple's

fastest growing region, and revenue from there is second only to the United States.

The company declined to comment on the issues discussed at the meetings with officials, which included Beijing's mayor.

Apple is still grappling with a series of problems from negative publicity over its supply chain to a trademark contest.

Chinese computer firm Proview Technology (Shenzhen) claims it owns the "iPad" trademark, and has sought to block sales of the iconic tablet computer in China through lawsuits.

Apple says it legally bought the rights to the trademark.

Xinhua quoted Li as saying that China would "strengthen intellectual property rights protection", although the report did not say whether he commented directly on the trademark dispute.

The Taiwan affiliate of Proview registered "iPad" as a trademark in several countries including China as early as 2000 -- years before Apple began selling its product.

The US titan subsequently bought the rights for the global trademark, but Proview claims the Taiwanese affiliate had no right to sell the Chinese rights.

A Chinese court is now considering an appeal by Apple after rejecting its earlier lawsuit against Proview for trademark infringement last year due to lack of evidence.

A watchdog group, Fair Labor Association, recently toured Foxconn facilities and factories of other Apple suppliers in China with Apple's consent but has yet to release its findings.

Facebook to make stock market debut 'in May'



(AFP) - Facebook will make its stock market debut in May with a record-setting initial public offering of shares, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal.

The world's leading online social network has stopped selling shares on the secondary market in order to get a precise count of investors, the Journal said, citing unnamed sources.

Facebook on Tuesday modified its filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission to warn potential investors that a patent lawsuit against the company by Internet pioneer Yahoo! could deliver a significant blow to its business.

"If an unfavorable outcome were to occur in this litigation, the impact could be material to our business, financial condition, or results of operations," Facebook said in amended paperwork submitted to the SEC.

Yahoo! filed suit against Facebook in a US district court in California on March 12, accusing the company of infringing on 10 of its patents in several areas including advertising, privacy and messaging.

In the suit, Yahoo! said that Facebook's growth "has been based in large part on Facebook's use of Yahoo!'s patented technology."

Facebook in February filed to go public and could raise as much as \$10 billion in the

largest flotation ever by an Internet company on Wall Street.

The paperwork filed for the initial public offering provided the first glimpse of the financial details of the web giant launched eight years ago by Mark Zuckerberg from his Harvard University dorm room.

Facebook, which is shifting operations to a former Sun Microsystems campus in the California city of Menlo Park, reported net income of \$668 million last year.

Revenue nearly doubled to \$3.7 billion in 2011, with most of it coming from targeted advertising gleaned from personal information shared by the hundreds of millions of users of the platform.

Facebook -- the leading social network in all but six countries, notably China and Russia -- said it has more than 845 million users including 483 million who log in daily.

Facebook's value has been estimated at between \$75 billion and \$100 billion.

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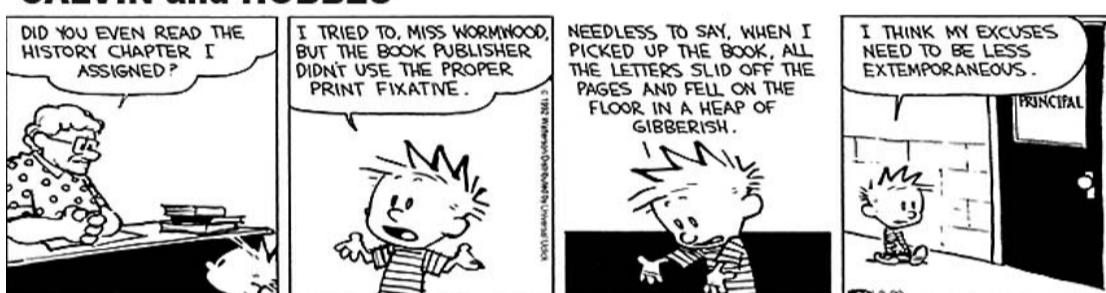
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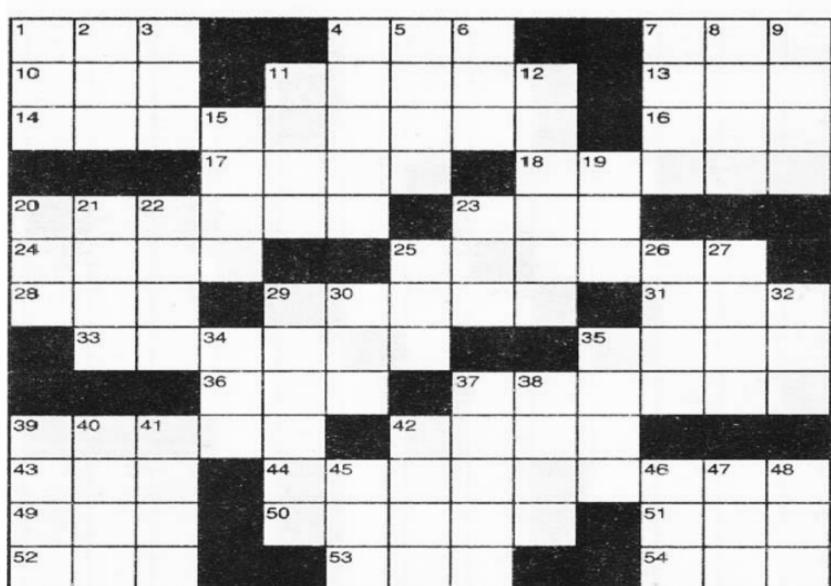
ACROSS

- Compete
- Anderson Cooper's channel
- Magazine clutter
- One ocean (abbr.)
- Luau farewell
- Chinese cooking pan
- Diamond locale (2 wds.)
- Pierre's friend
- Smokehouse sights
- Actress Helen __
- Evanston, to Chicago, e.g.
- "__ Hur"
- Stepped on

- Census Bureau data
- Abby's sister
- Actress Ghostley
- Point a camera
- Emblem
- Light tan
- __ and con
- Chatted
- Unhand (2 wds.)
- Food, informally
- "Here __ again!" (2 wds.)
- Escapist's behavior
- FBI
- investigator (abbr.)
- Lama
- Howl
- Meadow sound
- Football org.
- Gorilla or chimpanzee

DOWN

- Kilmer of "Batman Forever"
- Native of (suffix)
- Santa's assistant
- Clamber
- Denials
- Canucks' gp.
- Not present
- Rotunda's ceiling
- Sun Valley footwear
- Worship from
- Stick fast
- Boot-falling sound
- Tiny insect
- Depot (abbr.)
- Coffee vessels
- Skinny
- Pen-making name
- Cartoonist Keane
- Writer for hire
- Horse father
- Overseas
- Bathroom, to a Brit
- Stick in the
- Auto buyer's concern (abbr.)
- Napoleon's isle
- Courtroom event
- German auto
- Neeson of "Schindler's List"
- Waffle brand
- Dorothy's dog
- Sport for Tiger Woods
- Delivery vehicle
- Hoop group (abbr.)
- Shower __
- Look over



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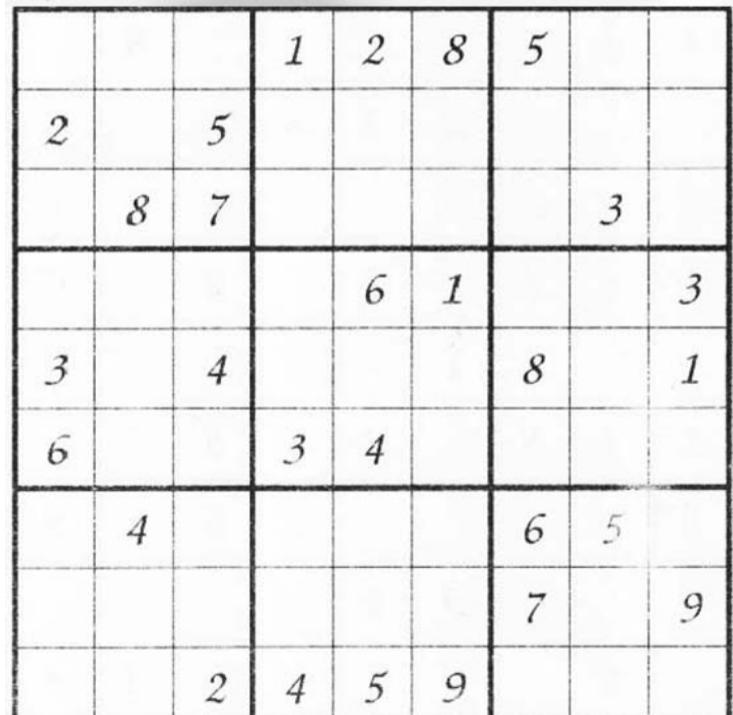
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8	5	3	2	1	6	7	4	9
9	4	1	7	8	3	6	5	2
3	2	4	9	7	5	8	6	1
5	7	9	8	6	1	4	2	3
6	1	8	7	5	9	4	2	3
2	9	5	6	3	7	1	8	4
4	3	6	1	2	8	5	9	7
1	7	8	4	5	3	6	9	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Annual InselAir Spring Sale will commence Friday March 30th!



InselAir announced its annual spring sale the 'Only You InselAir Sale' will start March 30, 00:00AST. The Sale will last until April 5th 24:00 AST with a travel period from April 16th until June 25th. Sale tickets will be available at all InselAir sales points and website.

Jürgen Lippinkhof, Chief Commercial Officer, "The bottom-prices are based on

return travel, including all taxes to great destinations such as Miami, Medellin, St. Domingo and many more. Sale tickets are available at all travel agents as well as all InselAir sales offices and www.fly-inselair.com. Tickets are also available at our Hato Airport Ticket Office during the Hato Curacao Airport day on March 30th."

Lippinkhof continued:

"This is also a great opportunity to start buying those mothers and fathers day gifts. A shopping trip to Charlotte or Miami, discovering Medellin, enjoying the Old City of San Juan, swimming in the Caribbean seas of St. Domingo or enjoying a jungle tour in Suriname. There are many options to choose from."

The 'Only InselAir Sale' tickets can be booked between March 30th and April 5th. The travel period is between April 15th and June 25th. Sale tickets are non-changeable, non-transferable and non-refundable.

Germany eyes eurozone firewall of 'around 800bn euros'

COPENHAGEN (AFP) - Germany's finance minister said Thursday the eurozone would soon have a firewall against the debt crisis of "around 800 billion euros", on the eve of a crunch EU meeting to discuss the issue.

Speaking at a conference at Copenhagen University ahead of a key two-day meet-

ing of European finance ministers starting Friday, Wolfgang Schäuble said that ministers would thrash out what he called a "new financial institution".

He explained that alongside the 500 billion euros maximum agreed in the new bailout fund that comes into effect in July can be added

money already loaned out to crisis-hit countries, plus some 60 billion in European Union funds.

The total, he said, was "about 800 billion euros (over \$1 trillion) ... to fight contagion to protect our stability," he said.

"It's convincing, it's sufficient. We will have a similar protection by the IMF as we got in the last two years and then I think we can be optimistic that it can work."

"It's a good solution and I think we should all get behind it," he added.

"I think it's enough."

Eurozone ministers are set to bolster their defences against the crisis by increasing the volume of their firewalls to prevent contagion to larger nations such as Italy and Spain.

Brazil economy to grow 3.5% in 2012: central bank

BRASILIA (AFP) - The Brazilian economy is expected to grow 3.5 percent this year, up from 2.7 percent in 2011 while inflation will be around 4.4 percent, according to central bank projections released Thursday.

The 2012 projections are lower than those from the finance ministry which is forecasting gross domestic product growth of 4.5 percent and consumer prices rising 4.5 percent.

The bank also anticipates low growth "for a prolonged period" for the global economy due to the impact of

higher oil prices on the United States and a delayed end to the eurozone debt crisis.

Last year, Latin America's biggest economy, now the world's sixth largest, grew a modest 2.7 percent, largely due to the global slowdown, after a blistering 7.5 percent expansion in 2010.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Current as of 3/29/2012		Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80	
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002	
Canada	CAD	1.770	1.790	1.810	
Britain	GBP	2.770	2.820	2.880	
Switzerland	CHF	1.9678	1.9750	1.9830	
Netherlands	EUR	2.3539	2.3754	2.3993	
Sweden	SEK	0.2576	0.2648	0.2728	
Denmark	DKK	0.3098	0.3170	0.3250	
Norway	NOK	0.3025	0.3097	0.3177	
Japan	JPY	212.56	214.50	216.66	
(per 10,000)					



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Euro falls on dollar

NEW YORK (AFP) - The euro slipped against the dollar Thursday ahead of the EU finance ministers' crucial meeting on expanding the eurozone's emergency intervention fund.

With worries about Spain's finances also clouding the markets, at 2100 GMT the euro traded at \$1.3301, down from \$1.3316 Wednesday.

Eurozone finance ministers meet on Friday and Saturday in Copenhagen to discuss expanding the eurozone's financial firewall by combining the European Financial Stability Facility, used to rescue Portugal, Ireland and Greece, with the permanent European Stability Mechanism.

To do so would at least temporarily raise the size of the rescue mechanism to 940

billion euros (\$1.25 billion) - an amount seen necessary to stem any future contagion in financial markets driven by weak eurozone government finances.

"Risk aversion drove the euro-dollar rate lower today but the prospect of a larger firewall that could lift investor confidence and shield the region from contagion prevented a steeper slide in the currency," said Kathy Lien of GFT.

The yen strengthened after Wednesday's fall: the dollar slipped to 82.42 yen from 82.86 yen, while the euro moved to 109.64 yen from 110.36.

The dollar gained on the Swiss currency, rising to 0.9062 francs from 0.9051.

The British pound rose to \$1.5955 from \$1.5887.

Republicans reject Obama effort to cut oil tax breaks

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Senate Republicans yesterday shot down a proposal to slash subsidies for big oil companies, ignoring a plea by President Barack Obama to end tax breaks for firms "raking in record profits."

A narrow majority voted 51-47 for the Democratic measure, but 60 votes were needed to move it forward.

Obama, under election-year pressure about a surge in fuel costs, used a Rose Garden address to say the nation cannot afford the subsidies at a time of record budget deficits.

"The biggest oil companies are raking in record profits -- profits that go up every time folks pull into a gas station," Obama said.

"But on top of these record profits, oil companies are also getting billions a year in taxpayer subsidies -- a subsidy they've enjoyed year after year for the last cen-

tury."

Shortly after the measure failed, the White House decried the "unfortunate vote."

Press secretary Jay Carney said senators "chose to side with oil and gas companies instead of the American people, who overwhelmingly support the notion that... at a time of record profits... the American taxpayer should not be subsidizing oil and gas companies."

The measure's main sponsor, Senator Robert Menendez, has said the top five petroleum companies made \$137 billion last year, while producing four percent less oil than the year before.

Senators urging passage of the bill have noted how the big five earned a combined trillion dollars in profits in the past decade.

"With their votes, Republicans said loudly and clearly that they're on the side of Big Oil," Menendez said.



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US actor Sheen says footage of meltdown 'cringeable'



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US actor Charlie Sheen on Thursday said watching footage of his meltdown after being fired from hit TV show "Two and a Half Men," was "cringeable," but he is sorry and wants to be a success again.

Sheen, who has started filming a new show called "Anger Management," told the Today Show on NBC television that seeing his outbursts on screen led him to scrap

plans for a documentary about his apparent public breakdown last year.

"I can't put that back out," he said, referring to footage of some of the many raving remarks he made after losing his job as television's highest-paid actor after he denounced the producer of "Two and Half Men," in March 2011.

Asked if watching himself looking so bad felt like an out-of-body experience, Sheen, who has a history of drug and alcohol abuse, replied: "Yeah, yeah it is. I just wish it was someone else's body."

The actor earned \$2 million per show for his role as a hedonistic bachelor in "Two and a Half Men" but he was fired for slamming its producer Chuck Lorre in a rant described by his bosses as part of a "self-inflicted disintegration."

"I didn't really have a plan. I guess the plan was just to introduce myself to the media and America and say 'sorry about that,'" Sheen, easing himself back into the limelight with appearances in commercials, said of his comeback.

But he said he has not given up alcohol and will not be subjected to drug testing by the producers of "Anger Management," which premieres on June 28 on the FX television network.

When Today interviewer Matt Lauer told Sheen he knew no physician who would tell the actor that it was okay for him to have a drink, Sheen jokingly replied: "If you do I should probably go to that guy."

Sheen, in an irony not lost on himself, plays a therapist in his new show.

British police media chief quits in hacking scandal

LONDON (AFP) - The media chief at Scotland Yard has resigned after he faced gross misconduct charges over the phone hacking scandal at Rupert Murdoch's News of the World, Britain's police watchdog said Thursday.

Dick Fedorico stood down a week after the Metropolitan Police said it would start proceedings against him for hiring Neil Wallis, a former deputy editor at the now-closed paper, as a media consultant.

It is the third major resignation from Scotland Yard, after the head of the force and another senior policeman stood down in July last year at the height of the scandal.

Deborah Glass, the deputy head of the Independent Police Complaints Commission, said in a statement that the watch-

dog had been investigating the hiring by Scotland Yard of Wallis's company Chamy Media for media consultancy work, despite the fact that the force was itself probing wrongdoing at the News International tabloid.

Glass said the IPCC sent a report to Scotland Yard's Directorate of Professional Standards in January recommending that Fedorico "has a case to answer".

"In light of Mr Fedorico's resignation today, those proceedings cannot now take place and I propose to publish our investigation report detailing our findings in the next few days."

Scotland Yard chief Paul Stephenson resigned in July amid reports of his close ties with Wallis, including al-

legations that he accepted a free stay at a health spa following an illness, though he denied any wrongdoing.

Another senior police officer John Yates, who oversaw a botched investigation into hacking in 2009, resigned shortly after Stephenson.

An initial 2006 police investigation into hacking led to the jailing of a News of the World journalist and a private detective, but the tabloid insisted it was a one-off.

Allegations emerged in 2009 that the practice was widespread, but police only reopened a full investigation in January 2011.

Since then, dozens of people have been arrested and News International has compensated numerous victims.

Belgian art dealer dies under surveillance in China

BRUSSELS (AFP) - A Belgian art dealer has died while held under surveillance in China for illegally exporting a sarcophagus that is now on display in a Paris museum, the Belgian foreign ministry said Thursday.

Kurt De Raedemaeker, 48, had been barred from leaving China when he died, a ministry spokesman said. Belgian broadcaster VRT reported that he had a heart attack.

"Belgium tried everything, even at the ministerial level, to bring him home. We asked for his repatriation for humanitarian reasons, but unfortunately it did not succeed," said the spokesman, Joren Vandeweyer.

The art dealer and China expert acquired the sarcophagus in 2003 and then sold it to an American buyer, according to VRT. It is now at the Guimet museum of Asian arts in Paris.

Chinese authorities convicted De Raedemaeker of selling a national treasure worth 1.2 million euros (\$1.6 million), but the Belgian insisted that the transaction was conducted within the rules.

He was arrested in January 2006 at Beijing airport and held in Gansu province in the northwest, where the piece of art came from.

In 2008, he was transferred to Beijing for health reasons and allowed to stay in a hotel with his partner, the Belgian foreign ministry said. He was allowed to travel within China but not leave the country.

The same year, a judge in Gansu handed him a life sentence, VRT said.

VRT, citing a journal kept by De Raedemaeker, said the

Belgian accused Chinese police of mistreating him.

"The daily anxiety and psychological terror have deeply affected my health," De Raedemaeker, who claimed he was innocent, wrote.

De Raedemaeker refused to cooperate with Chinese authorities, even when the American client offered to return the sarcophagus to China, the broadcaster reported.

He also refused treatment offered by China as long as his sentence was maintained, the foreign ministry spokesman said.



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Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a too



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too

be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers—the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to



Gouda Burger 2

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Concierge services to arrange



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,



high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

SPORTS

Tennis: Sharapova beats Wozniacki to reach Miami final

MIAMI (AFP) - Maria Sharapova advanced to her fourth Miami final Thursday after the world No. 2 rallied to beat fourth seeded Caroline Wozniacki, of Denmark, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 at the WTA/ATP hardcourt tournament.

Sharapova, a three-time runner-up in Miami, is in her second consecutive tournament final after losing in straight sets to Victoria Azarenka at Indian Wells.

"I started out well and then I just had a concentration drop but I am happy I pulled it through," Sharapova said.

The 24-year-old Sharapova will face either Polish fifth seed Agnieszka Radwanska or Marion Bartoli of France in the final. She lost in the Miami final in 2005, 2006 and last year.

Sharapova clinched the two hour, 34 minute match on the second match point but she needed the chair umpire to overrule a call on the second one after her serve was initially called long.

The chair umpire disagreed and overruled the initial call, saying it was on the line. Wozniacki didn't like it but the tel-



evision video replay backed up the umpire.

Sharapova stepped up for her second serve then worked her way into position so she could eventually hit an easy forehand smash at the net for the winner.

Sharapova is now a perfect 4-0 in semi-finals in Miami and beat Wozniacki after losing the last two meetings to her on hardcourts. She will be gunning for her 25th career title.

The 21-year-old Wozniacki dropped to 13-6 on the year but she equalled her best result of 2012 by making it to the semis. She also made the final four in Dubai.

Sharapova finished with no aces, five double faults but she won 68 percent of her first-serve points.

Sharapova broke Wozniacki in the seventh game of the third set to make it 5-2. Trailing 30-40, Wozniacki attempted a forehand drop shot that landed just short giving Sharapova the break and allowing her to serve for the match.

But Wozniacki battled hard on defence in the next game, matching Sharapova's powerful ground strokes to break right back.

Wozniacki then held serve when Sharapova hit a forehand long to cut the lead to 5-4.

Jerusalem police arrest 16 fans over racist attack

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli police have arrested 16 suspects in connection with a racist attack by Jewish football fans on Arab cleaners at Jerusalem's main shopping centre, a spokesman said on Friday.

"Israeli police have until now arrested 16 suspects based on CCTV footage," Micky Rosenfeld told AFP.

"All of the suspects (were arrested) in connection with racial incitement."

He said 10 of them had been questioned and released pending the outcome of the investigation. The other six would

appear before Jerusalem magistrates later on Thursday and police would ask they be remanded in custody.

The incident occurred on March 19 when Beitar Jerusalem fans flooded out of Teddy Stadium into the nearby Malcha mall and assaulted Arab employees, chanting "death to Arabs," according to media reports.

The first reports emerged only four days later in the left-leaning Haaretz newspaper, which said "hundreds" of fans were involved.

According to Haaretz, the fans spat on several Arab

women sitting with their children and when Arab employees at the mall tried to intervene, they were assaulted.

Fans of Beitar Jerusalem, which has never had an Arab player, have long been associated with anti-Arab racism, and the team has been punished in the past for the behaviour of its supporters.



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Tsonga accuses umpire of Nadal 'favouritism'

MIAMI (AFP) - France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga accused a chair umpire of favouritism towards Rafael Nadal after the Spanish world number two won a marathon three-setter to reach the Miami Masters semi-finals.

Tsonga claimed that match official Damion Steiner was reluctant to over-rule calls affecting Nadal, causing him to pay close attention to rulings as well as his own on-court performance.

The Frenchman made his feelings known at 4-4 in the final set.

"I was complaining because all the match I have to challenge, and I was right, many, many times," said Tsonga. "He never takes the

initiative when it's against Rafa. So I have to be really focused on the ball. If it's really close, he would never say out against Rafa. If Rafa don't like him anymore, he would not be in the chair many times in the final and semi-final."

Nadal said after his 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 win that he understood why his opponent was getting upset, but that he also suffered from bad calls.

"I understand the frustration because it's true that the referees with the Hawk Eye are doing less overrules than before. I said (this) hundreds of times," said Nadal.

"But it is not because he's playing against me. No. Happen to me a lot of times."



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Golf: Neumann named European Solheim captain

RANCHO MIRAGE (AFP) - Sweden's Liselotte Neumann has been named the captain of the European team for next year's Solheim Cup USA v European women's match play golf tournament in Colorado.

"I am extremely happy and honored to have been selected as the European Solheim Cup Captain in 2013," Neumann said Wednesday at a press conference on the eve of the Kraft Nabisco Championship, the first women's major of the year.

"This event has always been very special for women's golf and it brings back wonderful memories of my years on the team. I want to thank the selec-

tion committee and the players for placing their trust in me and I look forward to the challenge of defending the title on US soil next year."

Next year's Solheim Cup will be held August 16-18 at Colorado Golf Club in Parker, Colorado.

Neumann, 45, represented Europe six times as a Solheim Cup player and was assistant to captain Alison Nicholas in 2009.

She'll try to build on Europe's success in 2011 at Killeen Castle in Ireland by leading Europe to their first

victory in the United States.

However, she admitted she didn't initially want the job. She had asked to be removed from consideration for the captaincy before a string of players contacted her encouraging her to reconsider.

"Getting those notes from some of the players really got me thinking again. Am I going to miss out on this if I don't do this? I might never get the opportunity again," Neumann said. "I put my name back on the list and I got the OK. I'm very honored, and it feels great to have that support."

Cespedes helps

continued from page 16



Oakland Athletics outfielder Yoenis Cespedes hits a two-run homer in the seventh inning to help his side to a 4-1 win over the Seattle Mariners in Tokyo.

Mariners starter Jason Vargas also pitched a solid game, giving only one single in the first inning, one double in the fifth and a walk in the sixth, in seven and 1/3 innings.

Athletics coach Bob Melvin praised Colon's pitching, saying: "He is a perfect guy to pitch a game like this.

"Losing the game last night in a tough game and he just goes out there and does his things.

"My heart was beating a lot faster than his was. He's been around for a long time. I don't think anything will affect him on a big stage like this."

Japan's star outfielder Ichiro Suzuki, who fired four single hits on Wednesday, ended the day without a hit.

In the season-opening game on Wednesday, Dustin Ackley fired a game-winning home run to give the Mariners a 3-1 win.

Tennis: Birthday boy Monaco sinks Fish



MIAMI (AFP) - Argentina's Juan Monaco celebrated his 28th birthday in style by surprising eighth-seeded American Mardy Fish 6-1, 6-3 in the quarter-finals of the WTA/ATP Miami Masters tournament on Thursday.

Not many people gave underdog Monaco a chance against Fish, but the 21st seed has now won three straight against the American after dropping their first two matches back in 2005 and 2006.

"I can't believe it," Monaco said. "I have a lot of emotions it is good to celebrate this way, playing unbelievable tennis on my birthday."

"Every shot I wanted to play I did. It was a perfect match for me. I returned well and then I served very, very good."

In the semi-finals Monaco will face either world No. 1 Novak Djokovic or fifth seeded Spaniard David Ferrer, who were playing in the night session.

Fish broke Monaco in the sixth game of the second set to make it 3-3 but Monaco responded by winning three straight, closing it out on the first of three match points with a backhand drop shot.

This is Monaco's ninth appearance in Miami but the first time he has reached the semis.

Monaco, of Buenos Aires, improved to 11-4 on the year and is chasing his second title of 2012 after capturing his fourth career crown in Vina del Mar in February.

Monaco put on an impressive serving display by winning 71 percent of his first serve points as he needed just 82 minutes to oust Fish.

The 30-year-old Fish, who lost in the second round at the Australian Open and in the third round at the Indian Wells Masters, fell to 7-5 in 2012.

The hard-serving Fish finished with just one ace, one double fault and won 40 percent of his second-serve points.

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Cespedes helps LB's Athletics to 4-1 win over Mariners

TOKYO (AFP) - Yoenis Cespedes hit a two-run homer to help Oakland Athletics beat Seattle Mariners 4-1 to wind up the US Major League Baseball opening series on Thursday in Tokyo.

Trailing 0-1 in the bottom of the seventh inning, the outfielder homered off relief pitcher Shawn Kelly, with Kurt Suzuki on first base to take a 2-1 lead.

"I know he (Kelly) tries to go for a slider, so I tried to adjust for it. That is the only way that I can hit the ball," said Cespedes.

Josh Reddick followed him by hitting another home run to make it 3-1 and Jonny Gomes added one more in the eighth inning for 4-1.

Athletics starting pitcher Bartolo Colon got off to a perfect start, shutting out the first four innings without giving a single hit.

He gave Jesus Montero and Miguel Olivo two single hits in the fifth inning and a walk to face his first crisis with the three bases full, but Mariners infielder Brendan Ryan grounded out.

The Mariners broke the deadlock in the top of the seventh inning when infielder Justin Smoak hit a one-run

homer off Colon for a 1-0 lead.

continues on page 15

Booze back on menu at Brazil World Cup

SAO PAOLO (AFP) - Beer drinking football fans should be able to savor their favorite beverage during matches at the 2014 World Cup after Brazilian lawmakers approved a bill suspending a ban on beer sales in stadiums.

The bill regulating the beautiful game's quadrennial extravaganza received near unanimous support in the House of Deputies late Wednesday, paving the way for beer to be sold in plastic cups inside the venues.

Sales of alcoholic beverages in sports arenas have been banned in Brazil since 2003 but the World Cup bill will create an exception that had been demanded by world governing body FIFA.

The bill, which still has to be endorsed by the Senate before being ratified by President Dilma Rousseff, will also allow beer to be sold in

stadiums during the 2013 Confederations Cup.

FIFA had sought the exception over an agreement with its sponsor, US-based Anheuser-Busch brand Budweiser and because banning beer sales in 12 Brazilian host cities would have hit the football organization's revenues.

The lifting of the ban came through an agreement between the government, the opposition and the country's powerful pro-agribusiness bloc.

However some lawmakers insisted FIFA will still have to negotiate permission for beer sales separately with the individual Brazilian states concerned.

Seven of the 12 cities that will host World Cup games have laws that ban beer sales.

The bill also gives FIFA exclusive rights to pictures, sound and other forms of ex-

pression linked to the World Cup and slaps penal and financial sanctions for any illegal reproduction.

It will also reserve one percent of admission tickets for the handicapped and mandates that 300,000 tickets be sold at discounted prices.

Renan Filho, a member of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party which is allied with the government,

said of the lifting of the ban: "It's a temporary change to ensure the best World Cup for Brazil."

But Vicente Candido, a member of President Rousseff's Workers Party and a sponsor of the bill, described it as a compromise that does not fully meet the wishes of the government, FIFA and civil society.



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